

FAITH NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Our Mission is to give hope to disadvantaged children by showing them God's unconditional love and by guiding them into becoming whole persons – socially, intellectually, physically and spiritually



May 2009

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Since July 1, 2008, the beginning of our fiscal year, the following report indicates total contributions received/ pledged to date and what we need by June 30th to finish the year in the black.

Received/pledged between July 2008 - April 2009:
\$334,000

Giving needed by June 30:
\$67,250

Thank you for your faithful response to our budgetary need. Whatever you send, large or small, will make a difference!

THANKS TO

Everyone who has donated amazing and exciting auction items for our **Benefiting our Children Banquet** silent and live auction on May 15th!

These auction items will help us raise funds for our core programs!

CONTACT

Interested in volunteering?
Contact us:

Email: info@faith-network.com
Phone 510/836.5100
Fax 510/836.5105

Last Chance to Sign Up!

You are invited to Faith Network's second annual **Benefiting our Children Banquet and Auction** on **Friday, May 15th**. The cost is \$45 per person and includes, a banquet dinner, entertainment, and a live and silent auction.

This a chance to hear the latest about how Faith Network is impacting our community, bid on exciting auction items, and enjoy a delicious barbeque dinner.

R.S.V.P by **May 1st** by calling our office or visiting our website. We hope to see you there!

(510) 836-5100 www.faith-network.com



Banquet & Auction

Friday, May 15th, 2009
5:00 - 8:00 pm
Metropolitan Golf Links
10051 Doolittle Dr., Oakland

No-Host Bar
Dinner and Entertainment
Live and Silent Auctions



*Last chance to register for the **Golf Classic** too!
Call our office or visit our website for more information.*

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Seeking Shalom in the City...

by Natasha Hicks



Christ Church, Berkeley members working together at Claremont Middle School

the school garden as well as other beautification projects throughout the campus. Seeds of peace and love were surely cultivated on this day as this partnership continues to take root and grow.

This is the vision of "Project Peace" of **Christ Church** Berkeley/Rockridge. With "hopes to cultivate a merciful and just society," volunteers have taken to the streets to put their vision into action. Led by **Faith Gong** and **Jerry Cambra**, one way members of Christ Church are doing this is through an ongoing partnership with neighboring school, Claremont Middle School.

Committed to encouraging the heavy-laden staff, on Sat., Feb. 28, young and old came out to help maintain the



RANDY ROTH

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

"A Child's Future Starts Now"

I concur with my colleague Michael Lombardo, executive director of Reading Partners based in Milpitas, CA, who was recently quoted in the Oakland Tribune: "A child's future starts now as they learn basic skills such as reading. A second grade child has 10 months to learn all of the required skills. With services being cut and decreased money from the state, we need to come up with outside resources to help our kids. It will take everyone in the community to help in some way."

If you can spare one or two hours per week, consider volunteering as a reading tutor in one of our East Bay schools. Faith Network will provide the training and match you with a teachable, potential-filled student. Currently we are running **10 Excel Reading Clinics**, each of which needs additional tutors so that we can reach more children. 70% of Oakland's 3rd graders read below grade level; however most can and will succeed if they can receive personal attention from a caring adult. We can make a difference, one child at a time.

Blessings,

Randy

P.S. As you see by the Giving Update on p. 1, Faith Network is in need of **\$67,250** to conclude our fiscal year (June 30) in the black. Whatever you can do to help will be much appreciated. Thanks to all who have contributed toward advancing our mission "to give hope to disadvantaged children."

THE LOOKING GLASS

M.O.P.S. (Mothers of Preschoolers) took a survey of children who were known to be good kids, and they found that good kids had parents who told them often, especially in front of other people, what nice kids they were. Parents are a mirror, or a "looking glass," for their children. What a child "sees" in the mirror is what they think they are. Our smile or frown, our praise or put-down, has a major effect on their self-image.

STAFF

- Randy Roth, *President*
- Jocelyne Birren, *Grant Writing*
- Chelsea Boniak, *Executive Administrator*
- Norman Brooks, *Director Science Horizons*
- Rebecca Buckley, *Associate Director*
- Natasha Hicks, *Volunteer Director*
- Charlotte Martinez, *Director Health4Kids*
- Carolyn Piraino, *Director Excel Reading Clinics*

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10th Excel Reading Clinic Opens at Hoover

by Rebecca Buckley

Is reading fun? Ask eight second graders at Hoover Elementary in West Oakland! They have just met their new reading tutors, and are discovering that phonics and fluency can be fun. Though it's late in the school year, the new tutors have found that there's still time to come alongside a struggling reader and offer encouragement and support.



Catherine and her student enjoy The Cat In the Hat.

The tutors, from Sequoyah Community Church, stepped forward to serve with the encouragement of **Pastor John O'Hara** and church member **Anita Cota**. Another Sequoyah member, **Koy Hill**, teaches at Hoover Elementary and helped pave the way for a good partnership with Hoover **Principal LaResha Martin** and the second grade teachers. With Hoover's warm welcome and Sequoyah's solid volunteer crew, Faith Network's tenth Excel reading clinic is underway!



Regina and her student are a solid and smiling reading team!